

OTHER NOTICES

Crichton-Miller, H., M.A., M.D. *Psycho-analysis and its Derivatives*. London, 1933. Home University Library. Thornton Butterworth Ltd. Pp. 256. Price 2s. 6d.

THIS is a useful addition to a library which is designed to give the educated reader a general understanding of present knowledge on all manner of subjects. In such a work, particularly when dealing with a complicated and controversial subject, detail and polemic would be inappropriate. Dr. Crichton-Miller has written a simple and informative study of the doctrines of Freud, Jung, Adler and the less well known Prinzhorn, in which he is concerned rather to emphasize the positive and consonant aspects of this work than to insist on their weak points or inconsistencies. The medical reader will perhaps be dissatisfied with the necessarily brief treatment of many thorny matters, but the work is not meant for him except in so far as he is unacquainted with the extensive literature of the subject, a part of which is cited here in the bibliography. The exposition is generally clear and readable, and gives the point of view of a practising psycho-therapist who is not an adherent of any particular school. It is not a textbook of the subject or a critical review, but an easy introduction.

A. J. LEWIS.

Curtius, Dr. Friedrich. *Multiple Sklerose und Erbanlage*. Leipzig, 1933. Georg Thieme. P. 215. Price M. 18.

Curtius, Dr. Friedrich. *Die neuropathische Familie*. (*Das Kommende Geschlecht*, Band VII, Heft 2, 1933.)

IN the first of these publications, a genetical study of disseminated sclerosis, the author first clears the ground by criticizing the use of the word "constitutional" in connection with this disease, pointing out that it has no value unless the different types of constitution are first analyzed and a clear definition is given of those which are likely to succumb to noxious influences in the environment and to develop this disorder, and those which are likely to remain immune. He points out, furthermore, that in the etiology of this disease there is probably an interplay of a number of factors—inborn and exogenic—of which the most important in the latter category may be infection.

The familial incidence of disseminated sclerosis suggests to Dr. Curtius that what is transmitted is not a tendency to suffer from this disease itself, but rather a tendency to undergo degeneration of the nervous system, such as may manifest itself, for instance, in hereditary ataxia, myotrophic dystrophy and a number of other degenerative disorders of the nervous system.

The first part of *Die neuropathische Familie* summarizes in a useful form the views on disseminated sclerosis that are more fully developed in the author's larger work on the subject, and it emphasizes the need for carefully documented family histories that may serve as data on the inheritance of organic disorders of the nervous system. The second part consists of detailed proposals for accomplishing this task in accordance with the letter and spirit of recent German legislation.

R. ELKAN.

Frischeisen-Köhler, Dr. Ida. *Das persönliche Tempo. Sammlung psychiatrischer und neurologischer Einzeldarstellungen*. Leipzig, 1933. Georg Thieme. Pp. 63. Price Rm. 5.50.

THE author's aim was to investigate whether the "personal tempo"—a term intended to cover the speed of the reaction of mind and body—could be shown to have a hereditary basis. To this end she examined 118 pairs of twins, and 85 families with 318 children, both for their reaction-time and the "tempo" they favoured most for such activities as knocking rhythmically, listening to the beats of a metronome, and so forth. Her conclusions were that the speed of reaction varied according to time and the experimental technique, but that a certain constancy could be traced in every individual. Caffeine and alcohol had no influence on the final results. It is noteworthy, however, that the reaction time of the parents had a high correlation with that of their children. The author suggests that these experiments might be a first step in tracing the hereditary factors underlying certain psychological qualities.

R. ELKAN.

Heynes-Wood, Mercla (With the Assistance of Cedric Dover). *Eugenics and Birth Control*. Lahore, 1932. Times Publishing Co. Pp. 119. Price Rs. 3.0.

"An Eminent Doctor." *A Treatise on Birth Control*. Travancore, 1933. Pp. 179. Price Rs. 3.8.

BOTH of these books are published in India. The first is described by the author (who should know) as "a striking, candid contribution to married happiness and social welfare in the East." It is undoubtedly a well-intentioned work, and in the main well informed: indeed, it could hardly be otherwise considering that the text is made up very largely of quotations, not all of them quite accurate or between quotation marks, from some of the best works on eugenics and birth control that are available to English readers. The first part, which treats of the arguments in favour of and against eugenics and birth control, culminates in the state-

ment that "political ideals have their place, but they can never be realized by eloquence and Round Table Conferences alone. . . . I firmly believe that the physical improvement of the nation through the methods offered by eugenics is at present the most important aspect of this work, more important even than education, for you can only educate those who are capable of being educated."

In the second part the author describes the more widely practised contraceptive procedures, favouring before all others the type of occlusive cap popularized by Dr. Marie Stopes, but for very poor women recommending the use of a cotton wool or lint plug. "Professional detractors," she writes, "may say that I am advising one standard for the 'higher class' and another for the 'lower class' and that this is intrinsically unmoral. This I am not doing. . . . I am merely compromising with present-day conditions. I flatter myself that I am as much an idealist, as much a socialist, as anyone, but I cannot put the world right myself. And until the level of our masses is raised one will often have to compromise with conditions. Moreover, the soft plug is the third best contraceptive known." Even among those who cannot accept this precise mathematical evaluation of contraceptives there will be many to approve the author's attempt at finding a realistic solution of her country's population problems.

If there is no merit in unconscious humour, a quality with which it is richly endowed, the second book, stated to be by "an eminent doctor," and professing to be "a great piece of social service," has nothing to recommend it. It is badly written, pornographic in tendency, though doubtless not in intention, inaccurate in matters of detail, and misleading to the Indian public to which it is addressed.

E. M. HOLMES.

Ludovici, A. M. *Health and Education through Self-Mastery.* London, 1933. Watts and Co. Pp. xv+125. Price 3s. 6d.

THIS book has nothing whatever to do with eugenics, but seeks to convince the reader that most of the ills from which he is suffering, including those he is inclined to attribute to "hereditary taint," are due to "wrong use of the self." The right use is to be acquired through the technique of Mr. Mathias Alexander, which is indicated rather than described; since it concerns right posture, which can only be imparted by individual tuition. Mr. Ludovici makes out a very good case for the urgent need for such a technique and tells us all that it has done for him. This is splendid; and, moreover, he claims that this re-education of man, who is "now burdened with untrustworthy feeling," would enable him to grapple more adequately with world problems. One yearns to see it tried on, or by, such people as Hitler, Mussolini, Stalin, or Mosley.

URSULA GRANT DUFF.

Mullins, Claud (with a Preface by the Bishop of Southwark). *Marriage, Children, and God.* London, 1933. Allen and Unwin. Pp. 219. Price 6s.

THIS book, by one of our leading London magistrates, is pleasantly written. It contains much useful material for students of social conditions—and especially for those who are interested in the underlying eugenic causes of much avoidable human suffering. It appeals to religious-minded people who are troubled by the sayings of St. Paul and other such scruples. It seeks to convince them that there is nothing inherently vicious about taking thought for the quantity and quality of their offspring and that God should not be held responsible for human errors and blemishes. The author is himself assured that "religious opinion on these questions changes slowly with circumstances and the spread of education." A large number of incidents from his own experience and of opinions from Roman Catholic priests and a variety of other sources have convinced him that contraception is a "venial sin," a "small evil" compared with the horrors from which it can save mankind—and especially womankind.

The result of Mr. Mullins' wide reading and deep thought on this distressing problem of humanity may perhaps be best summed up in his own engaging words: "We have been influenced so far by consideration regarding the souls of the parents, but they seem to me less important than the welfare of the child." He only touches on the question of sterilization, noting that "even the *Eugenics Society*" advocates that it should be voluntary; and clearly himself regarding it as a useful adjunct to contraception in certain cases.

URSULA GRANT DUFF.

Maude, Aylmer. *Marie Stopes: Her Work and Play.* London. Peter Davies. Pp. vii+299. Price 8s. 6d.

THE life of Dr. Marie Stopes is an absorbing human document and must be of deep interest to all who care about eugenics. Although brought up in the strict atmosphere of Calvinistic religion—which fostered her abiding sense of personal responsibility for the conduct of the universe—and maintaining till maturity her "remarkable sexlessness" (p. 55), she was much influenced by a conversation she had with Sir Francis Galton during her extreme youth. From that time onwards there grew in her an increasing conviction that her great mission in life was to add to human happiness by dispelling ignorance—especially in sexual matters. No one without an unlimited amount of self-confidence could possibly have carried through so great a task as Dr. Marie Stopes set before herself. When we accuse outstanding persons of egotism, let us not forget that without a larger dose of this quality than is allotted to ordinary mortals, their hearts

would soon have been broken, their spirit crushed and their life's work left unfulfilled. Whatever therefore we may feel about the personality of Dr. Stopes, and some of the methods by which she has achieved her ends, we can but admire such courage and such attainments. Very few women—or men—could have done what she has done.

Mr. Aylmer Maude has written her life because she is the ablest woman he has met. He has set

forth her manifold abilities with sympathy. And the Gentleman with the Duster has summarized her creed and her mission thus: "It is essential so she tells us, that we must bring into existence a generation of men and women capable of happiness, and essential that we should cease to bring into existence a swarming mass of men and women tainted from their birth by depravity and disease."

URSULA GRANT DUFF.



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